

HOUSE RESOLUTION 178

By Barker

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kathleen Hyneman Elam
of Union City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Kathleen Hyneman Elam; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam was a prominent philanthropist and legendary benefactor who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born June 10, 1914, in Corinth, Mississippi, Mrs. Elam was a woman of tremendous grace and integrity who embodied the best of her community; she was taught the value of service to others by her parents, the late Thomas Culden and Pearl Utley Hyneman; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity as a supervisor with the U. S. Treasury Department during World War II, she earned the respect and admiration of her peers, colleagues, and staff for the excellent quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she became a homemaker and wife after marrying her beloved husband, the late Thomas French "Tom" Elam in 1946; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in her community, Mrs. Elam committed her time and energies to the betterment of Union City and Obion County; she was a highly regarded benefactor who contributed to numerous local and regional projects, including among others, the state-of-the-art Obion County Public Library, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee, Masquerade Theatre in Union City, Union City Schools Foundation, Freed-Hardeman University, Lexington Theological Seminary, The Review Club, and she and her husband played a pivotal role in securing the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company plant located in Union City; and

WHEREAS, an avid gardener, she served on the City Beautiful Commission for Union City and she pledged an endowment for the gardening committee whose efforts will be on spectacular display at the Discovery Park of America when it opens in Union City; and

WHEREAS, an ardent supporter of the University of Tennessee (UT), Mrs. Elam served on several UT boards, committees, and councils, including the University of Tennessee Development Council; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elam was a benevolent individual whose philanthropy and generosity knew no bounds; she and her husband valued education highly, and they made a lifetime commitment to helping others achieve their education; as longtime benefactors of the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM), they used their leadership and resources to provide many opportunities for the students at UTM; and

WHEREAS, possessing a magnanimous heart, they provided funding for several athletic endeavors and noteworthy university programs, including the physical education building that houses the basketball program and the campus recreation department, and bears their name - the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center, the football program, the baseball program, the softball program, the nursing program, improvements to the UTM Hall of Fame, and the UTM Alpha Tau Omega fraternity with its annual fundraising effort for St. Jude Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, in 2004 a tribute to Mrs. Elam was read into the United States Congressional Record by Congressman John Tanner in honor of her praiseworthy life; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of Union City First Christian Church who was known for her solid Christian belief, her service and love, and her role as a reservoir of faith and outreach to the people of her community; and

WHEREAS, she was deeply devoted to her family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed by her sister-in-law, Martile Carter Hyneman; and

WHEREAS, she will be fondly remembered by her nieces, Lisa Ball, Karen Brown, Carolyn George, and Betty Smith; and her nephews, Marty Irving Hyneman, Thomas Culden Hyneman III, Randy Hyneman, and William Hunter Mountjoy; and

WHEREAS, her legacy will also be remembered by her seven great nieces and seven great nephews, and a host of family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, she was also preceded in death by her brothers Richard Irving Hyneman and Thomas Culden Hyneman, Jr.; her sister-in-law, Dora Lee Hyneman; her god-son, Tommy Tanner; and her nephew, Ricky Hyneman; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen Hyneman Elam leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Kathleen Hyneman Elam, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Kathleen Hyneman Elam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.